

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS DIVISION

Optical Dispensing Examination



**Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, Georgia 31217-3858
478-207-2440 Customer Service * 866-888-7127 Fax**

Please review this bulletin carefully. It provides you with information about your optical dispensing licensing examination.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....

BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

- A. LOCATION, DATE, & TIME
- B. EXAMINATION PREPARATION
- C. VETERANS PREFERENCE POINTS
- D. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES

AT THE EXAMINATION

- A. WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAMINATION
- B. CONDUCT DURING THE EXAMINATION.....
- C. VISITORS AT THE EXAMINATION SITE.....
- D. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION.....

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

- A. PASS/FAIL STATUS
- B. SCORE REPORTING
- C. STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE EXAMINATION
- D. RE-EXAMINATION.....

***THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS OF GEORGIA DO NOT DISCRIMINATE
AMONG CANDIDATES ON THE BASIS OF AGE, SEX, RACE, RELIGION, NATIONAL
ORIGIN, HANDICAP OR DISABILITY.***

12-18-2013

Introduction

The Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians was created by the Georgia legislature to protect the public from incompetent professional practice. In order to achieve this goal, the Board established minimum standards and requirements for entry into the profession, and a licensure examination procedure was established

One of the requirements to become licensed as a Dispensing Optician in Georgia is that candidates must pass three examinations: the **National Opticianry Competency Examination (NOCE)**, the **Contact Lens Registry Examination (CLRE)** and the **State Optical Dispensing Practical Examination**. Prior to issuance of a license, applicants must submit current ABO and NCLE certificates, and must pass the optical dispensing practical exam.

This bulletin contains general licensure information and information on the State Optical Dispensing Practical Examination. For specific information on the NOCE and CLRE, please write or call ABO/NCLE, 6506 Loisdale Road, Suite 209, Springfield, VA 22150; telephone number 1-800- 296-1379, or visit their website at www.abo-ncle.org

BEFORE THE EXAMINATION

A. LOCATION, DATE, & TIME

Please refer to your examination notice for the location, date, and time of the examination. We recommend that you locate the testing site before the time of the examination. Candidates will **not** be admitted after the examination has begun.

B. EXAMINATION PREPARATION

It is not possible to produce a single list of references, which will provide all the knowledge required to pass the examinations. Candidates may wish to review materials that cover the content areas.

C. VETERAN PREFERENCE POINTS

Georgia law (see O.C.G.A. § 43-1-9) provides that veterans meeting certain conditions are eligible for the addition of five or ten percentage points to their examination scores.

To qualify, veterans must have served for a minimum of one year in active duty status and must have served during a period of conflict or war for a minimum of 90 days. The law further provides that you may also qualify for veterans preference points if you were "discharged for injury or illness incurred in [the] line of duty...if [your] disability is rated at 10 percent or above at the time of taking the examination."

To apply for veteran's preference points, candidates must submit a copy of their DD-214 form and documentation of disability (if applicable), to the Board office at the time of application.

D. SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS FOR CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES

The Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians wants to ensure that all qualified individuals with a disability have the opportunity to take the Dispensing Optician Licensure Examination.

Wheelchair access is available at the test center. Candidates are requested to advise the Board, in writing, at the time of application, that wheelchair access is necessary so any help needed may be arranged.

Qualified candidates with sensory, mental or physical disabilities that would prevent them from taking the examination under standard conditions may request special accommodations. Candidates should contact the Board office at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217-3858; telephone number (478) 207-2440 to obtain the "Request for Disability Accommodation" form, or you may download and print the form from the Board website, www.sos.ga.gov/plb/opticians. The request must be received by the Board along with the application materials submitted.

AT THE EXAMINATION

A. WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAMINATION

1. **Admission notice** -- contains date, time, and location of examination.
2. **Identification** – Candidates are required to bring a current driver's license with their **picture and signature** on it. If a candidate is unable to bring a driver's license, he/she must bring a passport **plus their** resident alien card, a state identification card, or an Immigration and Naturalization (INS) work permit. Candidates who appear without proper identification will **NOT** be admitted to take the examination.
3. **Pencils** –several #2 sharpened pencils with erasers. Mechanical pencils are NOT allowed.

B. CONDUCT DURING THE EXAMINATION

Smoking is **NOT** allowed at the examination site.

No food or drink may be brought into the examination room. Dress comfortably, professionally and modestly please. Individuals have different temperature preferences and the examination staff often has little control over the temperature. We recommend that candidates bring a sweater or jacket so that they can be comfortable in different conditions

Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner during the

examination. Any candidate found to have engaged in conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert the examination process may be dismissed from the examination, may have scores withheld and/or declared invalid, may be disqualified from the practice of the profession, or may be subject to other Board sanctions.

1. Candidates may not bring books or any reference material into the examination or use any performance aids during the examination.
2. Candidates are asked **NOT** to bring cameras, telephones, tape recorders, beepers, timers, cell phones, electronic recording or transmitting devices, or study materials onto the examination site. **If a candidate brings one of these devices, he/she must leave it outside the examination room, unattended. The state will not assume responsibility for it. IFA CANDIDATE IS FOUND IN THE EXAM ROOM WITH ONE OF THE ABOVE DEVICES, HE/SHE WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE EXAMINATION.**
3. Candidates may not take notes or memoranda from the examination room.
4. Candidates may not remove any examination materials from the examination room.
5. Candidates may not reproduce or reconstruct any portion of the licensing examination or assist others in doing so.
6. The examination staff cannot answer any questions about the content of the examination. Candidates will have an opportunity to write their concerns and comments on the Question/Comment Form.
7. Candidates may leave the examination room only with the examination supervisor's expressed permission. If a candidate is permitted to leave and return, he/she will not be granted any extra time to complete their examination.
8. A candidate may be dismissed from the examination room and/or denied a license for irregularities including, but not limited to:

- talking, signaling, or disrupting other candidates
- attempting to copy answers from another candidate
- allowing their answers to be copied
- impersonating another examination candidate
- failing to follow the examination supervisor's instructions

C. VISITORS AT THE EXAMINATION SITE

Absolutely no visitors will be allowed at the testing site. A waiting area is not available for visitors. Candidates will not be allowed to visit with, or exchange messages with others during the examination

D. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION

STATE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION - Candidates will have a total of 1 hour to neutralize four pairs of eye glasses. Each candidate must neutralize one pair of cataract glasses, one pair of multi-focal glasses, one pair of single vision glasses and one pair of progressive glasses to the nearest plus (+) or minus (−) .25 diopter.

The following equipment will be provided for the examination:

- a) Focimeter (Lensometer, Vertometer or Marco Lensmeter)
- b) millimeter rule
- c) lens clock
- d) pair of calipers
- e) four pairs of glasses
- f) timer

Requirements for recording your responses:

- a) glasses must be neutralized in minus (-) cylinder form to the nearest 0.25 diopter.
- b) seg height must be in millimeters high and not millimeters below center.
- c) for single vision glasses, candidates must determine the decentration required on each eye (monocular)
- d) for sphere, cylinder, and add, indicate plus (+) or minus (-) in spaces provided; for decentration indicate in, out, etc.
- e) candidates **MUST** use the pre-printed decimal points in the required areas.
- f) for cataract and multi-focal lenses use the list of seg types shown below to indicate the correct responses in the spaces provided on the answer sheet.

For example, to indicate a seg type of ST/FT 22, record a "01" in the space provided for seg type on the answer sheet.

LISTING OF SEG TYPES

Note – it is not necessary to memorize this information. A sheet with this list will be provided for the **timed** portion of the exam.

<u>SEG #</u>	<u>SEG TYPE</u>
1	ST/FT 22 (equivalent to D-22 or FT 22)
2	ST 25
3	ST 28
4	ST 35
<u>BIFOCAL</u>	
5	RD 22
6	RD 25
7	EXECUTIVE
8	ULTEX
9	ST/FT 28 SLAB OFF
10	BLENDED
<u>TRIFOCAL</u>	
11	EXECUTIVE
12	ST/FT 7 X 25
13	ST/FT 7 X 28
14	ST/FT 8 X 35
<u>OTHER</u>	
15	DUAL (DOUBLE SEG)
16	QUADRIFOVAL

AFTER THE EXAMINATION

A. PASS/FAIL STATUS

The required passing score for the state practical examination is 75 points.

B. SCORE REPORTING

Examination results are mailed to candidates in approximately four to six weeks after the examination. Examination results are mailed to the address on file at the Board Office.

Examination scores are confidential and will **NOT** be released over the telephone.

Therefore, candidates are asked to please **not call** for this purpose.

C. STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE EXAMINATION

A statistical analysis of the examination and a review of candidates' comments are performed after the administration of each examination. This analysis assures the validity and reliability of the examination.

D. RE-EXAMINATION

Candidates' scores are checked many times to ensure the accuracy of the test results, and scores close to 75 are routinely hand-scored.

Candidates who fail the examination may request a hand score and/or review of their examination. **Please note: If your score was within five points of passing, your answer has already been hand scored.** A Re-grade/Review Notice and a Re-grade/Review Request Form are mailed along with the examination result notice to candidates that fail the examination. To request a hand score or review candidates **must** submit a completed Re-grade/Review Request Form along with the necessary fees by the deadline stated in the notice to:

GA Board of Dispensing Opticians
ATTN: OPT Regrade/Review
237 Coliseum Drive
Macon, Georgia 31217-3858

Candidates will receive notification of the hand scoring results. Results of the hand scoring will be final.

Candidates are to appear for the examination review on the date and at the time listed on the Regrade/Review Notice. **Please note: The review is not designed for discussion or evaluation of the examination.**

Any questions regarding licenses should be directed to the Board Office at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; telephone (478) 207-2440.

Re-examination Procedure

Candidates failing Practical Exam must retake and pass the examination(s) in order to become licensed. Submit the "Dispensing Optician Application for Re-Examination" available on the Board website, www.sos.ga.gov/plb/opticians to the Board